



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

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District Man Pleads Guilty in Sexual Attack Against Ex-Girlfriend

WASHINGTON - John R. Conner, 25, of Washington, D.C. pled guilty today in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to kidnapping and third degree sexual abuse in a December 2009 attack on his ex-girlfriend, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Conner, who is incarcerated, will be sentenced Nov. 29, 2010 by the Honorable Lynn Leibovitz. Under terms of his plea, he faces four years of incarceration. Upon his release from prison, he will be required to register under the Sex Offender Registration Act for 10 years.

The evidence in the case showed that on Dec. 14, 2009, Conner was walking with the 17-year old victim in front of an abandoned elementary school in the 1500 block of Morris Road SE, in Washington, D.C. As they talked, Conner became upset and attacked the victim. Conner punched her in the face, choked her, and then dragged her by her collar down a set of cement steps and inside the abandoned school building. The victim attempted to fight back by biting and kicking Conner, but she was unable to get away and he sexually attacked her.

Conner was arrested the following day and told police that he attacked the victim because he was upset by what she was telling him. He said that he wanted "to show her how it feels when someone is going to take your life."

In announcing today's plea, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department Youth Investigations Branch, and particularly praised the work of Detective Robin Blyden. U.S. Attorney Machen also commended the work of Victim Advocate Melissa Milam, Paralegal Specialist Donhue Griffith, Legal Assistant Tanisha Nelson, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen Ditzler, who prosecuted the case.

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